

Saint Paul Bicycle Advisory Board
Discussion Summary
7/7/2009
DRAFT

Members Present: Robert Barbosa, Robert Vanasek, Jessica Treat, Ed Lehr, Richard Arey, Don Muske

Guests Present: Liz Walton, MnDOT; Mary Pohl; Becky Alper; Deb Alper.

Staff Present: Kate Reilly, PED; Erik Thompson, Parks

A quorum was not present at the meeting scheduled for 7/7/2009. A discussion of items on the agenda followed.

1. Mary Pohl, a community member involved with Active Living Ramsey County (ALRC) and a member of the Ramsey County bicycle route gap subcommittee said she is interested in working with the BAB to identify additional gaps in the bicycling network to add to the list already generated at a recent ALRC community event. Gaps need to be identified by July 17, 2009. It was decided that the Engineering and Evaluation Subcommittee would work on this issue, with input from the full BAB. Jessica noted that Smart Trips has a map of cycling facilities in the county that could be used by interested parties. (More information was provided in a 7/8 email from Jessica Treat).

2. A discussion of bike counts was held. It was determined that we would count, on 7/14, Kellogg at Wabasha (Richard Arey), Warner Road at Fish Hatchery Road (Ed Lehr), Jefferson at Victoria (Mary Pohl), Jefferson at Fairview (Becky Alper). We will use the monthly form shown us by Tony Hull. Kate will contact Laura at Smart Trips about their count locations. Kate will send out the logistics information on counts as well as distribute the forms. Counts will take place from 4-6 p.m. on 7/14. The raw data will be sent to the BAB for their perusal.

3. Richard Arey gave an update on the Saint Paul Bike Classic. It is Sunday Sept. 13 and benefits the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota. Brochures are available around the Metro and from Richard.

4. Ed Lehr updated us on Road 1/LCI. To clear up some confusion about the course title, it is named by League of American Bicyclists as "Smart Cycling Traffic Skills 101," although the two groups offering the courses seem to use several names, including the old title "Road 101" and "Biking Skills 101."

The course is a total of 9 hours, including five hours of bike skills and road riding and four hours of class room work. It is presented in several configurations, including two days (most common) or three days (recommended by League), and rarely (see below) in one day.

The course is a prerequisite for the League Cycling Instructor (LCI) certification course.

Courses are being offered by the Minneapolis Bike Ambassadors program and by the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota. Main focus of the Bike Ambassadors is the metro area, and the Bicycle Alliance is statewide, including the metro area. Bike Ambassadors arranged for the LCI course last year, and are filling up the majority of two classes this year.

The next Smart Cycling Traffic Skills 101 is now this:

TRAFFIC SKILLS 101

Date: Friday, July 31, 2009

Instructor: Julie Kosbab

Location: Winona, MN

Fee: \$50

Description: Part of Weekend on Wheels 2009 - the National Rally of Bicyclists! Taught by League Certified Instructor on the Winona State University Campus. Gives cyclists the confidence they need to ride safely and legally in traffic or on the trail. The course covers bicycle safety checks, fixing a flat, on-bike skills and crash avoidance techniques and includes a student manual. Recommended for adults and children above age fourteen, this fast-paced, full-day course prepares cyclists for a full understanding of vehicular cycling. Fee includes snack and box lunch. Note: Open to all. Need not be attending other WOW weekend events to register.

To register for this course, contact:

Julie Kosbab

Contact Email: julie@bikewow.org

Website: <http://www.bikewow.org>

Signup required in advance? Yes

Special signup instructions: Online sign-up at

<http://www.bikewow.org/registration/products-page/traffic-skills-101/>. All credit cards accepted via PayPal.

Equipment required: bicycle, helmet

5. Don Muske gave an update on the Jefferson Avenue bikeway. He said the people at the June meeting were evenly split between opposition and support. He said the opposition was more aggressive. Forty people spoke during the meeting. Another community meeting was held 7/7 for Fort Road Federation neighborhoods.

6. Members reviewed the BAB member roles and responsibilities draft that Jessica Treat distributed. Several changes were suggested. Those suggestions included:

All voting reps should be included under the general responsibilities heading

Title should be changed to “voting member responsibilities”

It should be clear that volunteers who are not voting members are welcome as members of subcommittees

Include more advocacy

A responsibility should be to advocate for a complete and connected bike network

Duty #4 should say “get to know your ward and city”

Duties should include “be a knowledgeable advocate for bicycle safety” and “be an advocate for and participate in bicycle education”

The responsibilities should stay on one page

The two sentences that make up the third paragraph should be stricken

7. Eric Thompson made the point that the BAB needs to work on a campaign to educate the mayor and city council and others because until we get leaders to understand that bicycles need to be a priority, they won't be.

8. We discussed inviting Russ Stark to a future BAB meeting for a conversation on raising the profile of biking priorities within the city's government. To Eric's point, we won't have a workable website or quick action on replacing BAB members or movement on initiatives until biking becomes a real value in our city government and Russ is to be invited to help us understand how we might make this happen.